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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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January 25, 1982

Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

This is to inform you that henceforth, all classified Committee correspondence will be stamped as follows:

"This document is the property of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and is provided on temporary loan to the addressee on the condition that it will not be released or otherwise disseminated without the permission of the Committee, except that it may be provided to executive branch personnel whose official duties are concerned with the subject matter herein."

The purpose of this procedure is to make an effective, clear expression of Congressional control with regard to each classified document sent to executive branch addressees by the Committee. Such a clear expression appears necessary in light of a 1980 decision by U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity vs. Central Intelligence Agency, 636 F.2d 838. It is the Committee's intent in stamping each classified document as indicated above to restrict access of such documents to those executive branch personnel whose duties require its review. Further, it is to clearly state that no other dissemination of such documents may be made without the express permission of the Committee.


The Committee continues to leave to appropriate executive branch officials the determination of who within the executive branch should receive access to Committee documents. That is the responsibility of such officials. It is important that all executive branch elements affected by Committee actions, guidance or requests be cognizant thereof.

In addition to future documents originated by the Committee, this letter is also meant to make clear the Committee's intent with regard to any classified documents provided to executive branch addressees since the Committee's inception in 1977. The Committee always has considered such documents to be Congressional documents. They were provided to executive branch addressees for internal executive branch use only, so as to assist in the Committee's exercise of its legislative and oversight responsibilities. The Committee wishes all such addressees, the departments or agencies for which they worked and any other executive branch officials to whom these documents were provided to treat such documents as the property of the Committee. They may not be further disseminated, aside from routine internal use by those officials whose duties require their review, without the express permission of the Committee.

Early in its existence, the Committee instituted a practice of prohibiting the reproduction, by executive branch officials, of transcripts of executive session Committee proceedings on loan to executive branch agencies. This was accomplished by stamping a prohibition on reproduction of all such transcripts and securing their return after a period of review. The Committee will continue to observe this practice - permitting review, but not reproduction, of such transcripts and requiring their return to the Committee within specified time periods. The particular sensitivity of these proceedings recommends the reaffirmation of this policy parallel with the new policy described above relating to all other classified Committee documents.

It is my hope that the Committee's policy as explained above will adequately insure the confidentiality of the Committee's dialogue about classified matters with those intelligence agencies it oversees. It is intended at the same time to facilitate good working relationships. Your cooperation and assistance in implementing this policy will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



EDWARD P. BOLAND
Chairman